



# October 2005 Smoke Signals

The newsletter of the Indian Hills Radio Club

Wickliffe, Ohio 44092

## We try again to revisit the BC-610 World War II transmitter *It remains an interesting Hallicrafters rig*

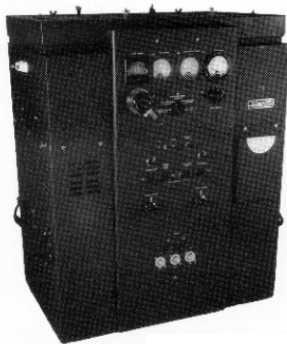
Our October 10 meeting will again feature a video on the famous BC-610 transmitter. Due to a technical problem with the DVD or player experienced at our last meeting, President Joe has done some trouble shooting with the help of Jeff, WA8SAJ, and expects that this time, the show will go on.

Considering that the Hallicrafters-manufactured transmitter weighed a mere 390 pounds, a video introduction seems like a practical alternative to hernia surgery.

So be prepared to learn more about this stalwart WW II transmitter. Its civilian counterpart was known as the HT-4 and sold by Hallicrafters for \$695. It put out 450 watts on CW and 325 watts on AM, was crystal controlled, and covered 160 to 10 meters.

**A reminder:** The club's fiscal year 2005-2006 has begun, and thus dues are due. So if you haven't done your dues — still a bargain at only \$10.00 — please bring some cash or a check to the October meeting and present it to our treasurer David, W8DDD.

We look forward to seeing you, and perhaps a friend, at our Monday, October 10th gathering. As usual, it will be held at the Wickliffe Public Library, 1713 Lincoln Road, Wickliffe, starting at 7:00 p.m. ■



*The BC-610*

## Smoke Signals wins ARRL Ohio Section newsletter award *Second place among 41 entries*

The 2005 ARRL Ohio Section conference was held in Columbus recently, and among its many pieces of business was the naming of winners in the 14th annual Ohio Ham Radio Newsletter Contest.

Scott Yonally, N8SY, Public Information Coordinator, announced the three winners and gave statistics about the contest which recognizes award-winning work of newsletter editors, and keeps track of the progress of all who enter.

First prize went to *20/9 Radio Club News* of Youngstown; second prize was awarded to *Smoke Signals*; and third place winner was *News Unwired* from the Grant Amateur Radio Club.

Yonally reported that 41 newsletters entered the contest, with 27 of these available on the internet. Judging was by an independent panel of communicators.

**Commenting on the award,** President Joe Gutoskey, W8DOE, said that *Smoke Signals* "Is the result of hard work by the editor and the contributions of our members."

Adds editor W1HEO, "Thanks to David, W8DDD, who handles production and Don, K8ZGW, who does the distribution, and those who contribute material .

"Our newsletter is an important membership benefit, and it strives to provide news and information of interest to club members. The newsletter really serves a history of the club. Our goal is to make your newsletter worth reading, and to be the best quality possible."

Although editor "Dee" Logan, W1HEO, was not able to attend the presentation, the award was accepted by Bob Winston, W2THU, QCWA Chapter One Vice President, who was attending the conference. ■



**Indian Hills Radio Club Net**  
**Thursday Evenings**  
**8:00 PM local time**  
**146.430 MHz simplex**

## Hams help once again: This time it's Hurricane Rita

*Areas helped still reeling from Katrina*

Shortly after **Katrina** left its mammoth path of destruction, another monster storm, **Rita**, headed for the Gulf Coast and added to the misery. Amateur Radio nets and operators were again pressed into service to help with communications.



The Hurricane Watch Net was activated on 14.325 MHz and ARRL headquarters maintained regular contact with Section Managers and Section Emergency Coordinators in the Gulf Coast region. The Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, stayed on the air over the weekend of Sept. 24-25 to monitor emergency nets and to assist as needed.

**The Harris County**, Texas, emergency operations center in Houston was among several EOCs that requested Amateur Radio support. The American Red Cross established its headquarters in Austin, Texas, for the Hurricane Rita Emergency and its W5KA was active in the West Gulf Emergency Net on 7.285 MHz and 3.873 MHz.

Amateur Radio support was provided for nearly two dozen shelters. One problem: some operators in coastal areas faced mandatory evacuation orders.

**Hurricane Ophelia**, which struck the North-Carolina coast, also involved radio amateurs. "All operations went smoothly," reports North Carolina SEC Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK. ■

### Smoke Signals is the official publication of The Indian Hills Radio Club.

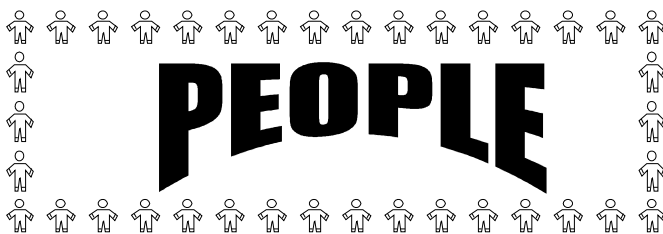
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**What a birthday!** Several of our members paid a visit to the club's senior member **Lou Sabetto, W8PIU**, to help him celebrate his 90th birthday at the Greens. The surprise visitors included **Joe, W8DOE; John, K8OCK; and Dick, W8FDN**. Lou is fine, and gets around very well with the help of a walker. Here's to many more birthdays, Lou!



**One ham's family:** Some of us have family members who also are hams, and such is the case with **John, KS8A**, who reports that his second son, who was KC7VW, is now KC8IBT. Sounds like a move, too.

**Antenna tales:** The sagging solar cycle has turned 10 meters into a quiet zone these days, so **Ed, N8THI**, is converting his monobander for that band into a three-band beam. Ed's passion for sailing is why he still does a good deal of listening to the marine bands.

**Jolly good show!** A trip to England and Ireland was on the recent agenda for **Frank, KB8WHY**, which took him away from his usual morning radio activity on 7.268 MHz. (Hope the fish and chips and a pint was mighty tasty.)

**Hurricane dodger:** Among those with relatives down south near the hurricane zone, **Don, K8ZGW**, reports that his son, who works in Mississippi 350 miles north of the Gulf Coast, escaped serious harm. Just a heavy soaking of rain.

**Our "MemberQuest"** Realizing that adding new members is an important means of assuring the survival of our club, copies of *Smoke Signals* along with membership applications were distributed at the recent Cleveland Hamfest. Thanks to **David, W8DDD**, for producing ample copies to have on hand. Each month, copies of this newsletter also are available from AES, along with applications for membership.

**Agging antennas?** Nothing too new to report, says **Dick, W8FDN**, just the "Same old equipment, antenna's old age is setting in," he says. (Certainly not the operator! - ed.) ■

## Radio classics The Hallicrafters S-38

*A pretty good receiver for under 50 bucks*

In 1946, Hallicrafters offered the S-38 receiver for sale at only \$47.50. This popular model had six tubes and four bands covering .54 MHz to 32 MHz. It had a 455 KHz IF and featured a variable pitch BFO, automatic noise limiter, band spread and a built-in speaker.

This was designed as an entry-level receiver and was the post-war replacement for the Sky Buddy.



Your editor recalls that this was his first commercial receiver and replaced a simple three-tube regenerative unit with plug-in coils. We copied lots of shortwave stations, both broadcast and Amateur, as an SWL before moving up to the S-40B when we got our Novice ticket.

An AC-DC set, the S-38 had a smooth black finish and operated from 120 volts. The tube lineup included a 35Z5 rectifier, 35L6 audio output, 12SQ7 automatic noise limiter and BFO, 12SQ7 detector, AVC and first audio, 12SK7 IF, plus a 12SA7 mixer and oscillator.

There were two versions of the S-38. The standard used six tubes, but at the end of its production run there were some five-tube models with a black wrinkle finish on the cabinet.

Later versions included the S-38A, B, and C models produced from 1946 to 1955. ■

## Electronic newsletter distribution; Your comments, please

*From those who prefer it that way*

Some members have opted to receive their copy of *Smoke Signals* via the Internet, and since we've had a couple of issues distributed this way, we'd like to hear your comments.

So, how's it doing? Please tell David, W8DDD.

There are several ways of distributing newsletters. Local clubs send them as e-mail attachments, others provide copies on-line for anyone, and, of course, there are paper hard copies.

Your editor's only concern regarding those who read their copy on screen and then delete them: can you really remember everything? Meeting dates?



## News From The Wide World of Amateur Radio

**Antenna bill reintroduced.** Legislation that could make it easier for radio amateurs living in communities with deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) to erect suitable antennas has been reintroduced (HR 3876). ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, commented: "Unfortunately, if all new housing developments contain deed restrictions forbidding outside antennas, there will probably come a time when there will not be enough ham radio operators to help their neighbors and countrymen."

**Space station ham gear.** An unmanned Russian cargo ship has carried two new Amateur Radio units to the International Space Station. Included were the SuitSat Amateur Radio hardware and Slow Scan TV hardware and software.

**FCC cites local hams.** Two Strongsville, Ohio, hams, Gary Jaworske, KB8ZNS, and Zachary Jaworske, KB8YYG, have had their license renewals handed over to the FCC enforcement bureau for review. The action is based upon a complaint alleging that they were marketing non-certified radio transmitters and modifying certified radio equipment to operate on unauthorized frequencies and at power limits that violate FCC rules.

**Donations for Katrina relief:** Nearly three dozen members of the Amateur Radio industry and individual hams have contributed equipment for use in the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. The equipment was given to ARRL, which is redirecting these resources as needed in the disaster zone. The gear is being used by the Red Cross and state and local disaster agencies.

**ARRL elections ahead.** Great Lakes Division Director James Weaver, K8JE, is being challenged for reelection by Neil Salatzky, K8IT. Running for Vice Director are Daniel Romanchik, KB6NU and former Division Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA. Current Vice Director Richard Mundro, W8FQT, has decided not to run for another term. The new terms begin next January 1.

**FCC stops license renewal.** Glenn Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine, has had his ham license renewal set aside. A fine of \$20,000 is proposed for Baxter's various violations of Part 97 of the Amateur rules. ■

*The ARRL Letter*

## Case history: Helping hams Rooftop rescue aided by Amateur Radio operators

*A life-saving flight in New Orleans*

Among many stories of Amateur Radio operators who helped during the Katrina Hurricane disaster is this one that's typical of emergency communications in action.

When 15 persons were stranded on the roof of their house by floodwaters in New Orleans, and unable to get through an overloaded 9-1-1 system, one of those stranded called a relative in Baton Rouge. The relative, in turn, called another relative in Oklahoma, whose 81-year-old aunt was among those clinging to the roof.

A call to the American Red Cross chapter was relayed to the Tulsa Repeater organization. The message was then handled by the Red Cross chapter's Amateur Radio station and operator Ben Joplin, WB5VST, who checked into the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN).

The message was then handled by Russ Fillinger, W7LXR, in Oregon and Rich Cain, W7KB, in Utah, who got in touch with the ARES net in Louisiana, where emergency personnel rescued the 15 people. ■

*The ARRL Letter*



### Jest A Moment!

The Lighter Side of  
The News, Collected  
By Gus Mirsalis, W8RPT

### The incredible electric man

Australian Frank Clewer is a most shocking man. When he put on a woolen shirt and a synthetic nylon jacket, he was unaware of the electric charge building up as his clothes rubbed together.

All 40,000 volts worth!

When he walked into a building in the country town of Warrnambool in the Southern state of Victoria, the electrical charge ignited the carpet. "It sounded like a firecracker," he said.

Firefighters responded, took Clewer's jacket, and said, "We've never seen anything like it." ■



Chewing the Rag:  
Odds and Ends From Here ,  
There and On the Air.  
By W1HEO

### The great analog vs. digital faceoff

Most of us spent our early years in an all-analog world. But today's rush to digital circuitry, with digital cameras, digital signal processing, and countless other non-analog approaches makes us wonder if there can be a peaceful coexistence between the two.

This was the topic of an editorial in *Electronics World* passed along to us by Gus, W8RPT. Analog, it noted, has been critical in the signal chain, where it's the interface to the real world. Take, for example, a ham transceiver's digital signal processing circuit: analog-to-digital-to-analog.

Does the future spell doom for analog? An estimate of the market for analog components by 2007 is \$40 billion, while digital microprocessors will be \$5 billion less. National Semiconductor, for one, is plowing up to 19% of its sales into analog R&D.

Where's the future growth for analog? Applications include high-speed communication, telecom infrastructure, automotive, printers, copiers, fax machines and medical systems.

There are many who swear that analog is far superior to digital audio systems and are willing to back up their opinion by paying top dollar for vacuum tube amplifiers. For example, the Antique Sound Lab Typhoon DT vacuum tube power amplifier features KT88 power tubes for an output of 50 watts per channel. "The rich, warm sound of vacuum tubes plus high reliability make the Typhoon DT a great choice for music listening," says its advertising.

You can put one in your living room for \$1,295.00.

Whether or not you can hear the difference between a vacuum tube audio amplifier and its modern solid-state equivalent is a tough call. Most of us would have a tough time hearing the difference during a blindfold test. But then, our hearing isn't what it used to be.

Be it sine wave or square wave, perhaps it's just something to check with a scope. Better to sit back, relax, and listen to some soothing strings and forget about the type of amplifier.

### Adding conversation to your lunch

We're pleased to note that the Friday gatherings at Wellington's of the "Lunch Bunch," have often numbered a dozen. This is a good sign, methinks. Getting folks together with many similar interests — ham radio being the main one — to chat and munch at lunch provides something that is disappearing from today's world. We rush here and there, seldom see our neighbors, are too busy with projects, stay glued to the TV and have few opportunities for ... conversation. ■